Rough Draft

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Pd 2

**Parental Advisory**: May Cause Excessive Moon Walking

Great things happened in the 80’s but, I think the history of music was most important. Michael Jackson was discovered before this time but, then he was just a boy in the 70’s. In the 80’s he became a man, he became the King of Pop, and an incredible dancer. He wasn’t the only one in the 80’s who’s career in music took off. Prince was and still is an exciting live performer and a prolific singer-songwriter. (King, 2000)His music was explicit, His lyrics profane, and all the girls loved him. These two were different, yet, also similar, and put a lasting impression on the musical history of the 80’s.

Michael Joseph Jackson, born on August 29, 1958, is world widely known as the King of Pop. He just didn’t become so famous overnight. Michael began his career first as a child star in the 70’s. It wasn’t until the 80’s he became a solo act releasing tons of hit singles. His first album was, *Off The Wall*, released in 1979. This record Sold 9 million copies worldwide and had four top hit singles. Then in 1980 Jackson won three awards at the American Music Awards for his solo efforts. It was then that he went on to win Billboard Music awards for Top Black Artist and a Grammy for Best Male R&B. Wearing that infamous sequined glove, he debut his signature dance move the moonwalk. Michael had become quite the success in the music industry. It was in 1982 that he released his most Epic album, *Thriller*, which became the most successful album of all time. With 10 top singles of “Billy Jean”, “Beat It”, and “Wanna Be Startin’ Somethin’.” It is still considered the best selling album of all time with 110 million copies sold worldwide. On March 25, 1983, he performed live on the Motown 25: Yesterday, Today, Forever television special, both with the Jackson 5 and on his own singing “Billie Jean.” Michael was known for his slick dance moves. (Wikimedia Foundation Inc., 2009)

Then in the mid 1980’s Michael’s skin started to get gradually paler. The media was all over him in a heartbeat with rumors that he was bleaching his skin. In 1986 Michael had been diagnosed with vitiligo; the vitiligo partially lightened his skin and the treatments he used for his condition further lightened his skin tone. His facial structure also changed after undergoing multiple nasal surgeries, a forehead lift, thinned lips, and cheekbone surgery. Afterword, the media just got worst accusing him of sleeping in a hyperbaric chamber to slow his aging process. From then on his career slowly began to slip away from him. (Wikimedia Foundation Inc., 2009)

Prince Rogers Nelson, born June 7, 1958, in Minneapolis, Minnesota was, like Jackson, known for his music and creativity. Prince, unlike Michael, was known more for his odd style and stage performances. He showed an attraction for lacy, frilly, and often suggestive clothing. On stage he was sensual and oozed sexuality in way audiences had not seen before. In his world, men could wear makeup and women’s clothes and still maintain a supportive and diverse fan base. (King, 2000) His style ended up bringing him trouble when in 1981, when he was infamously pelted with garbage while wearing bikini briefs, leg warmers, high heeled boots, and a trench coat, he was eventually booed off the stage. He gained most of his popularity in 1980 when he released his entirely self-recorded album, *Dirty Mind*. This album was notable for its sexually explicit material. (Wikimedia Foundation Inc., 2009)

In 1982, Prince released the *1999* double-album which broke Prince into the mainstream in the US and internationally, selling over three million copies. That spawned the hit “*Little Red Corvette”* which was made into a video which Prince joined Michael Jackson and Lionel Richie as part of the first wave of black artists on MTV. (Wikimedia Foundation Inc., 2009) *Purple Rain* was next in line released in 1984 which sold more than thirteen million copies in the US. Prince’s explicit and sexual lyrics inspired Tipper Gore to found the Parents Music Resource Center. This was the center that advocated the use of a warning label (“Parental Advisory: Explicit Lyrics. In 1985, after the successful Purple Rain Tour, Prince announced that sadly he would discontinue his stage performances and music videos. That didn’t stop him though he went on to make several more music videos and do countless live performances. Prince’s music and style was a definite contrast against Michael Jackson’s smooth moves and suave sounds.

In conclusion, Michael Jackson and Prince were definitely two different artists with styles all their own. Michael with his eccentric vocal style, and Prince with his very strange tastes in fashion. Their music still lives on till this day (though Michael has passed away). They were both big parts of the history of the 80’s. Michael has even been inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame twice, his other achievements feature multiple Guinness World Records – including the “Most Successful Entertainer of All Time”, 13 Grammy Awards, 22 American Music Awards, 17 number one singles, and estimated sales of 750 million records worldwide. Prince on the other hand, has won seven Grammy Awards, Golden Globe, and an Academy Award and he was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 2004. (Wikimedia Foundation Inc., 2009)